

# *The Conference of the Birds*

*Retold by Alexis York Lumbard*

*Illustrated by Demi*

*Foreword by Seyyed Hossein Nasr*



“Late one moonless night in a far corner of the world there gathered a large flock of birds. They gathered in sorrow, since they had been, for so very long, deprived of a king. . .”. Thus begins the magical adventure of these wayfaring birds. With encouragement from their wise guide, the hoopoe bird, they overcome fears, physical hardships, and their own inner weakness in order to reach the heights of the mountain to meet their King. Children and adults alike will relate to this inspiring tale about conquering one’s faults and practicing the virtues of humility, patience, detachment from worldly goods, and courage. Lavishly illustrated by award-winning illustrator, Demi, and based on an 800 year old classical tale by Attar, this fascinating and beautiful book will delight children and provide parents with a wonderful tool for teaching children about moral and spiritual development.

## **This Book Features:**

- ❖ A Foreword by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, world-renowned scholar on Islam and Sufism.
- ❖ 44 beautiful color illustrations by Demi, the award-winning artist and children’s book illustrator.
- ❖ A retelling, by Alexis York Lumbard, of the classic 800 year old Sufi tale by Attar.

## **Publication Details:**

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-02-1
- ❖ Pub Date: September, 2012
- ❖ Price: \$19.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 11x10
- ❖ Page Count: 44 hardback



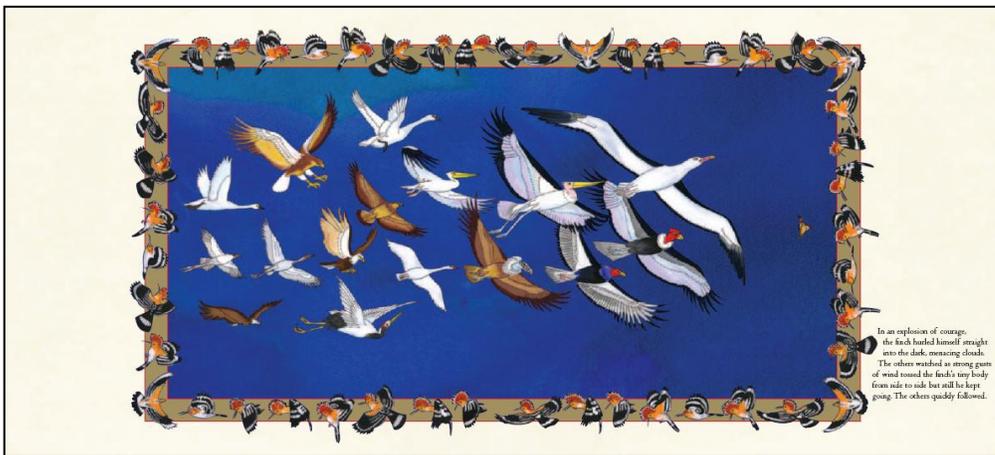
# The Conference of the Birds

“This laudable attempt to retell the gist of a 12th-century poem of over 4,000 verses may be of interest to religious educators and parents who want to expose young people to varied spiritual values.... Demi’s delicate watercolor-and mixed-media illustrations, each bordered with a frieze of multiple bird images in every position of flight, suit the text admirably.

—*Kirkus Reviews*



Sample Pages



“Both prose and illustrations combine simplicity and elegance, ably rendering this classic tale for a new generation.”  
— *Publishers Weekly*

“The collaboration of these two gifted women is indeed felicitous. Together they have created a precious work which enables the young to enter a world of truth and beauty that is denied to them in so much that they read and see today.”

—SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR, from the Foreword



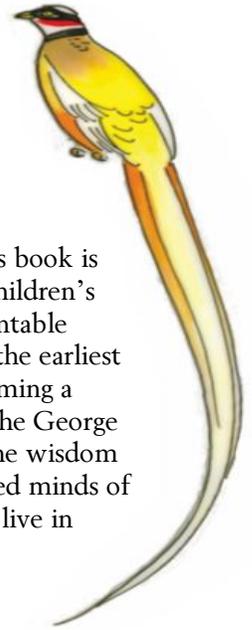
Sample Pages



## About the Author of *The Conference of the Birds*



ALEXIS YORK LUMBAR D'S first published children's book is *The Conference of the Birds*, while she has two further children's books scheduled for publication. Having noticed a lamentable absence of high quality books of spiritual substance for the earliest of readers, she began writing her own stories since becoming a mother in 2005. With a B.A. in Religious Studies from the George Washington University, it is her sincere hope to bring the wisdom and beauty of the world's religions to the eager and gifted minds of young children. Alexis, her husband, and three children live in Newton, MA.



## About the Illustrator

DEMI is the award-winning author of over 130 bestselling children's books. Her titles have sold over half a million copies. *The Empty Pot* was selected by former First Lady Barbara Bush in 1990 as one of the books to be read on the ABC Radio Network Program *Mrs. Bush's Story Time*, sponsored by the Children's Literacy Initiative. Demi's book *Gandhi* was named a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and received an Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award. In addition, she represented the United States at the First International Children's Book Conference in Beijing, China, in 1992. She lives with her husband in Yarrow Point, WA.



## About the Author of the Foreword



SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR is one of the world's most respected authorities on traditional Islam and Sufism. He is University Professor of Islamic Studies at the George Washington University. His publications include *Sufi Essays, Knowledge and the Sacred, Religion and the Order of Nature, A Young Muslim's Guide to the Modern World, Islam: Religion, History, and Civilization*, and *The Essential Seyyed Hossein Nasr* (World Wisdom, 2007). He is also the editor of *The Essential Frithjof Schuon* (World Wisdom, 2005). A volume in the prestigious *Library of Living Philosophers* series has been dedicated to his thought and he has also delivered the Gifford Lectures in Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Nasr is the only person ever to have received both of these honors. The Gifford Lectures provided the basis for *Knowledge and the Sacred*, one of the most important books of the 20th century.